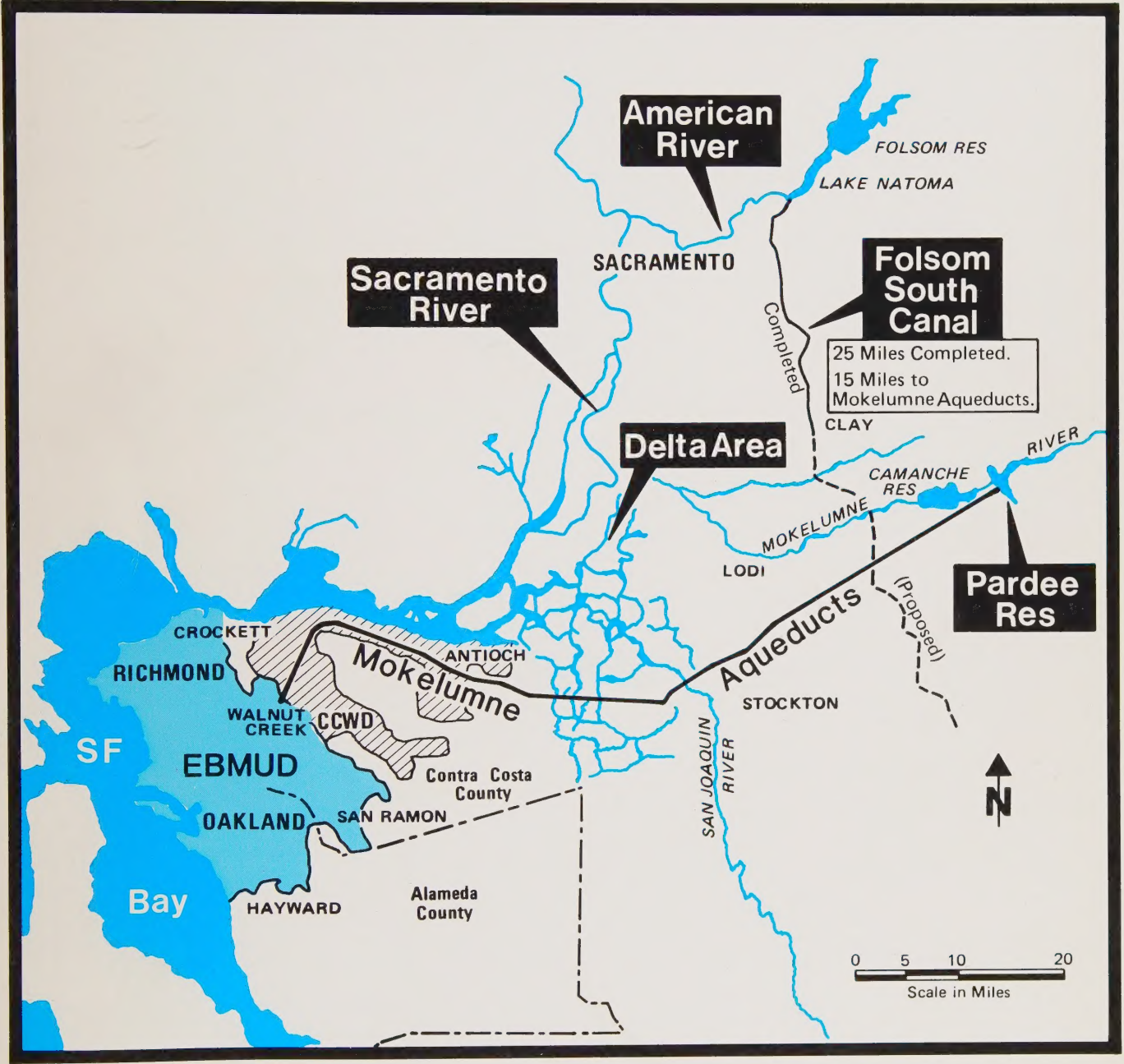


WHY THE AMERICAN RIVER?



IT IS NEEDED

Three times in its history, the East Bay Municipal Utility District has faced the problem of providing future generations with enough high-quality water to meet the needs of their times.

When the original District system was planned in the 1920s, rights were acquired to 200 million gallons a day (MGD) of pure mountain water from the Mokelumne River.

After World War II, when a new wave of population hit the Bay Area, the District went again to the Mokelumne and obtained rights to another 125 MGD.

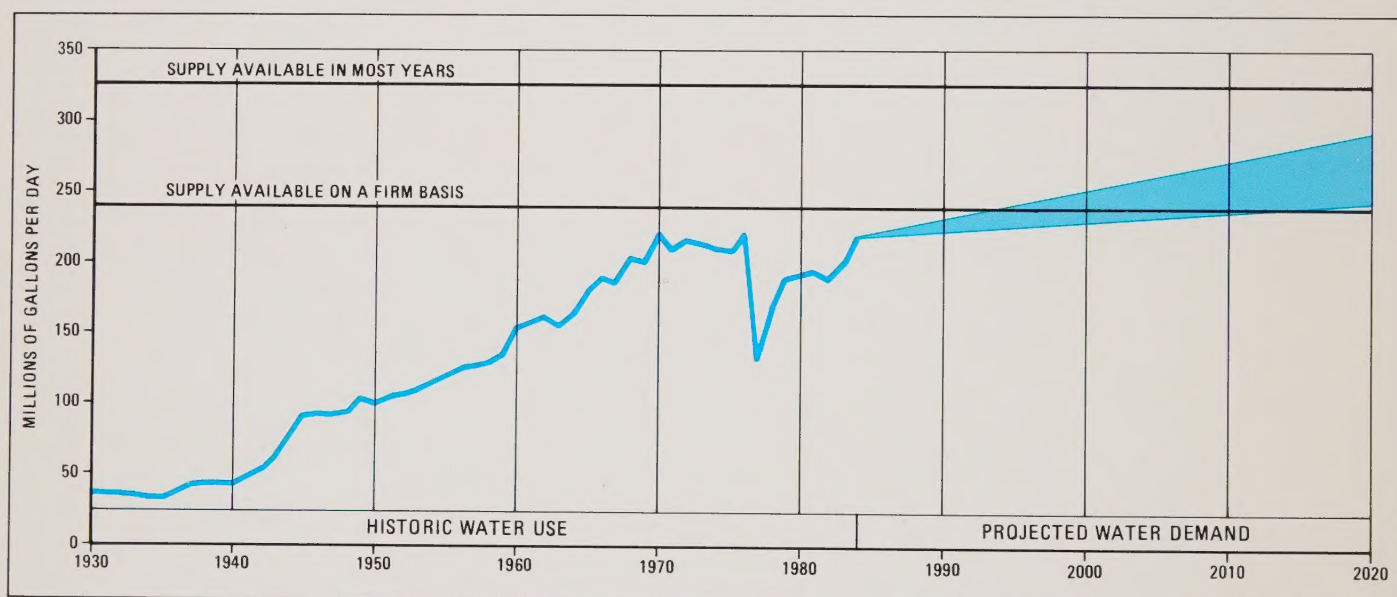
By the early 1960s, projection showed a deficiency after 1985 and EBMUD began planning for a future water supply. North Coast, upper Sacramento basin rivers and various Delta sources were studied. In 1964 and 1965, reports were prepared on water sources and quality, contract terms and economic considerations. Several outside consultants followed with reports on source water quality considerations, desalinization and wastewater reclamation. The Folsom South Canal alternative proved to be the most attractive.

To assure the cooperation of surrounding agencies, EBMUD entered into an agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation, the Central Valley East Side Project Association and the Sacramento River and Delta Water Association, which represented Sacramento County. All agreed the District could seek 150,000 acre feet of water a year from the Bureau's proposed Folsom South Canal.

That agreement was noted by the State Water Resources Control Board in February of 1970 when it issued permits for the Bureau's Auburn-Folsom South units. In December that year, EBMUD signed the long-term contract with the Bureau for up to 150,000 acre feet per year of American River water.

Figure 1 shows the predicted growth in water until the year 2020. This prediction reflects growth uncertainties and continuing improvements in water use efficiency. The District is using 6 MGD less water today than it did before the 1976-77 drought, despite a 9.5 percent increase in the number of customers.

FIGURE 1 - PAST AND FUTURE WATER REQUIREMENTS



SOURCE: EBMUD

While EBMUD holds rights to 325 MGD of water from the Mokelumne, less is available in very dry years. In early 1985, the EBMUD Board of Directors accepted a report from a 35-member citizens committee which recommended that planning be based on 240 MGD "safe yield" from the Mokelumne and that no water should be taken from the Delta. The Board then adopted the nation's first Water Supply Availability and Deficiency policy, which establishes an annual demand and supply assessment to protect existing users rights to 240 MGD. When this level is to be exceeded, greater efficiency or a new supply must be provided. Figure 1 shows that this level will be reached in the late 1990s. Greater growth or dry periods could shorten the time span or a wet period could lengthen it.

The District's ultimate service area boundaries are relatively fixed. EBMUD is bounded by San Francisco Bay on the west, Contra Costa Water District on the north, the cities of Hayward and Dublin on the south. Although the San Ramon Valley corridor has grown rapidly in recent years, it represents less than 15 percent of the District's service area. More than half the growth expected in the next 20 years will be in other parts of the District.

Demand for water, almost entirely in EBMUD's service area, is expected to increase gradually as subdivisions, building permits and redevelopment projects are approved by the two counties and 20 cities the District serves. Alameda, Albany, Berkeley, Danville, El Cerrito, Emeryville, a portion of Hayward, Hercules, Lafayette, Moraga, Oakland, Orinda, Piedmont, Pinole, part of Pleasant Hill, Richmond, San Leandro, San Pablo, San Ramon and part of Walnut Creek are served in Contra Costa and Alameda counties.

Sales of water outside the ultimate service boundary have been only of surplus water, and any proposed expansion of the ultimate service area will only be considered under the Water Supply Availability and Deficiency Policy which protects existing users.



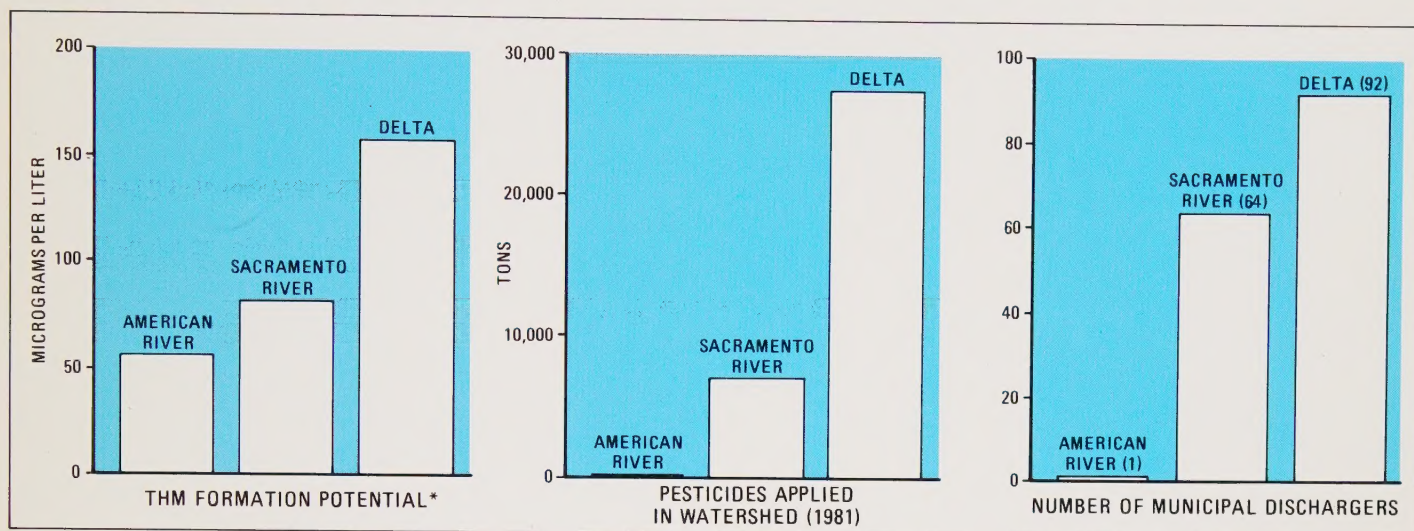
ITS QUALITY IS HIGH

EBMUD historically has made choices to provide its customers with the safest water supply that it can afford. Its Mokelumne River water has a low mineral content and is free of contamination from urban or agricultural drainage and toxic spills. In its search for supplementary water sources, the District's goal is the best water available. The American River water was identified as the best water quality available at a reasonable cost.

The American River upstream of Sacramento, the Sacramento River near the community of Hood and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta near Clifton Court Forebay were considered as possible diversion points for American River water.

Diversion from the American River above Sacramento provides the safest quality for drinking water. Like the Mokelumne, the American River comes from largely undeveloped mountain watershed. The selection of the Sacramento River and the Delta sources has been suggested since others use them, but they receive large amounts of urban and agricultural runoff. Figure 2 illustrates some of the differences between the watersheds and the quality of water from them.

FIGURE 2 - CONTAMINANTS IN DIFFERENT WATERSHEDS



*THM'S ARE COMPOUNDS FORMED DURING WATER TREATMENT THAT ARE CARCINOGENIC TO ANIMALS.

SOURCE: "WATER QUALITY CONSIDERATIONS IN SOURCE SELECTION" BY OKUN, HARRIS & TARDIFF

While many California communities use water that is of lower quality, the cost of treatment increases as quality declines. EBMUD's present system is designed to provide low cost treatment balanced with high quality supply. Water from the Delta has higher mineral content and higher concentrations of organic contaminants, and would be subject to taste and odor problems. If there were no alternatives, the District would treat Delta water with the best technology possible, but there is an alternative. EBMUD has a contract to take water from facilities already built.

THE LOWER AMERICAN ISSUE

"This is really a simple case — what we're trying to do is prevent EBMUD from taking water from the Folsom South Canal." —Stuart L. Somach, Attorney for Sacramento County, at the August 13, 1985 State Water Resources Control Board Workshop.

The Environmental Defense fund, along with the Save the American River Association and others, brought suit against EBMUD in 1972, alleging that the delivery of Folsom South Canal water to East Bay customers contemplated by EBMUD would constitute an unreasonable use of American River water. Sacramento County joined as a co-plaintiff shortly afterward, even though the county had been represented in the 1968 negotiations and eventually intends to contract for water from the Folsom South Canal itself.

The plaintiffs contend that greater benefits can be gained if EBMUD diverts its water below the mouth of the American River.

EBMUD maintains that it has a responsibility to meet its future domestic water supply needs with the best quality of water available, and that reasonable diversion of the water via the Folsom South Canal will not harm the lower American River.

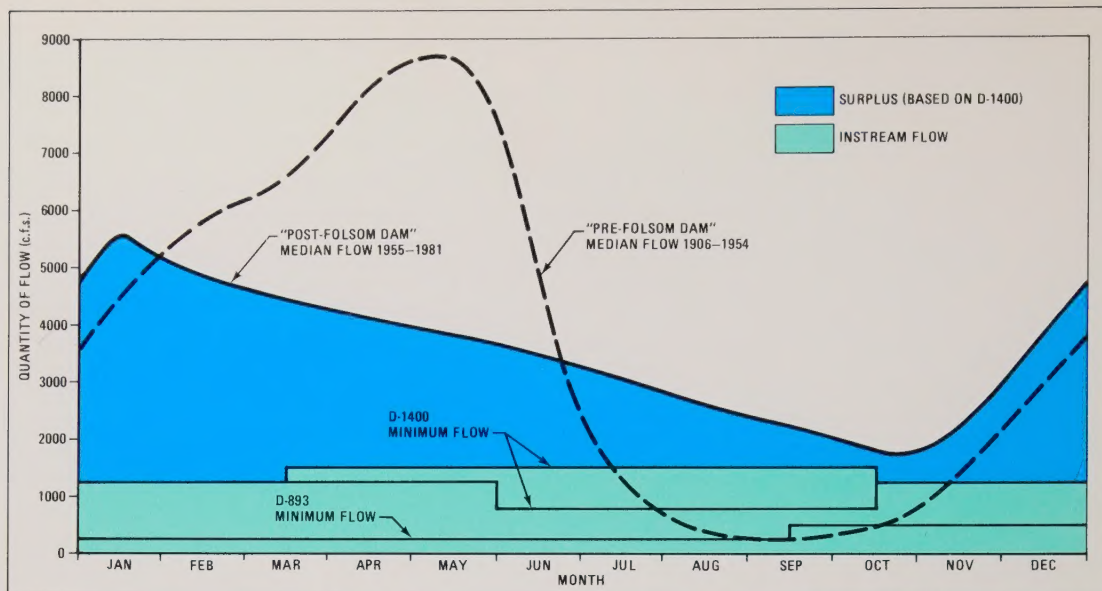
Delivery of water to EBMUD via the Folsom South Canal and flows in the lower American River are not directly related. The Bureau of Reclamation holds the water rights. Whenever the Bureau is limiting downstream releases to the minimum flows specified in its water rights, water not delivered to EBMUD via the canal would simply remain in storage and no downstream flow change would occur.

Since the Bureau is not a party to the lawsuit, the outcome of these proceedings cannot guarantee higher minimum flows in the American River.

THERE WILL BE NO ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE

EBMUD will not take water if the environment will be damaged. Before dams and reservoirs were built on the American River, flows in the river fluctuated dramatically. During winter rains and spring snowmelt, flood-level flows ran through the Valley into the Sacramento River and on to the Delta and ocean. During the summer and early fall, the river slowed to a trickle. Construction of Folsom Reservoir in 1955 altered the natural flow pattern. Large winter and spring flows are stored in the reservoir and released during the dry months for use downstream. Winter and spring flooding has been reduced dramatically. See Figure 3.

FIGURE 3 - LOWER AMERICAN RIVER FLOWS



SOURCE: STAFF REPORT, STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD WORKSHOP SESSION AUG 13, 1985.

Before Folsom, flows in September approached zero, with only a few hundred cubic feet per second (CFS) going past Sacramento. With the construction of Folsom, minimum flows of 250 and 500 CFS were established by the State Water Resources Control Board (Water Rights Decision 893). When Auburn Dam was proposed, the State Board required the Federal government to maintain from 1,250 to 1,500 CFS (Decision-1400) as the usual minimum flows. With post-Folsom water flows, the American River became a live stream in the summer. Although the dam was designed to provide water for people and farms, recreation flourished as flows ranged from 2,000 to 5,000.

And although there has been a heavy investment by U.S. taxpayers, Rancho Seco Nuclear Power Plant has been the only significant user of that water.

Flows in the American are regulated by dams and congressional directives, and neither is under EBMUD's control. Testimony by all parties before the State Water Resources Control Board has shown that there is enough water to meet the reasonable needs of both the Lower American River and EBMUD if the resource is properly managed.

To assure that this happens, EBMUD is proposing a compromise solution that would protect the River while providing high quality drinking water to more than one million people. That compromise solution would bind EBMUD to the minimum flow requirements in Decision 1400 in order to protect fish and recreation and allow the State Water Resources Control Board to revise the minimum flow requirements if future conditions change.

IT IS IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST

There is enough water on the American River to meet EBMUD's needs. The public health and welfare of EBMUD's users can be protected without interfering with the instream uses of the American, the Sacramento, the Delta or the Bay. Then why the objections?

o Some believe that although our diversion would be small, it would set a precedent.

Answer: Yes, it sets a precedent that people should consume the best quality of water available providing that quantity does not harm the environment. There will be no harm because the sum total of all urban diversion from the American, the Sacramento and the Delta could not have a significant effect on environmental uses. Agricultural use amounts to more than 85 percent of the total water used in California.

o Why should EBMUD get its supply when Northern California has not supported solutions to the water quality problems experienced by users in the Central Valley and Southern California?

Answer: Northern Californians weren't the only objectors to recent statewide ballot proposals. EBMUD always has supported highest and best quality water for drinking purposes for all agencies. The District, however, was concerned that Delta protection should be adequate. More work needs to be done on these protections and water systems designed to assure the best quality of water for people who drink it.

o Don't treatment plants protect users of Delta water?

Answer: They do to some extent. In all but a few occasions, diversions from the Delta meet public health standards after treatment. However, the future is uncertain as agricultural drainage increases. We are learning more about the adverse effects of contaminants, so when a high-quality source is available, it is in the public interest to use it. This applies not only to EBMUD, but also to every other water utility in California.

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Board meetings open to the public are held at 1:15 p.m. the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. Room 100, 2130 Adeline Street, corner of West Grand Avenue, Oakland.

For information contact the EBMUD Public Information Office at the address below or call (415) 891-0615.



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